

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants:	William F. McKay et al.	Examiner:	Brian E. Pellegrino
Serial No:	10/666,900	Art Unit:	3738
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For:	NATURAL TISSUE DEVICES AND METHODS OF IMPLANTATION		

Mail Stop: RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 15, 2008 ("Office Action"), which set a shortened statutory period of three months for response and is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and requisite filing fee. This response is filed with the payment of a 1-month extension of time upon mailing with an executed Certificate of Mailing. Please charge this fee or any additional fees that may be due herein, to Deposit Account No.132546. The amendment to the claims begins on page 2; and the Remarks begin on page 6.

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any document referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the United States Patent and Trademark Office electronic filing system to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **April 13, 2009**.



Toni Greer